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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOGUS PREACHER SENTENCED FOR FRAUD SCHEME

PHILADELPHIA – Arthur Jenkins, a/k/a Bishop Jenkins, a/k/a Reverend Jenkins, 59, of Philadelphia, was sentenced today to 41 months in prison for four counts of bank fraud, and four counts of passing counterfeit securities, announced United States Attorney Michael L. Levy. Jenkins pleaded guilty to all eight counts in October 2008. As part of his fraud scheme, Jenkins would contact small business owners and religious leaders who had placed advertisements in local newspapers seeking business capital. In some cases, Jenkins used his aliases to prey on his victims' religious sensibilities. For example, one victim thought Jenkins was helping him obtain a loan for repair work on the victim's church. Jenkins had the victim write three checks for \$500 each. He then delivered a check to the victim for \$25,000. The check bounced. Jenkins would claim he worked as a broker for investment companies that specialized in making loans to individuals who were unable to borrow money from a regular bank because of their poor credit history or their low income. Jenkins gave his loan applicants counterfeit corporate checks, drawn on several companies, instructing the victims to deposit the checks and withdraw money. As a result, Jenkins defrauded several area banks out of a total of \$98,000. United States District Court Judge R. Barclay Surrick ordered Jenkins to report to prison November 30, 2009 and to complete three years of supervised release.

The case was investigated by the Philadelphia Field Office of the United States Secret Service and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Floyd J. Miller.

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